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WITH THE CORN BORER

BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY

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RECEIVED

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WHAT THE CLEAN-UP DID TO THE CORN BORER

Field surveys of 743 townships in the heavily infested States show that the spring clean-up campaign has slowed up the borer's rate of increase, according to figures released September 21. Though an increase of 50 per cent in borer population is shown this year, this compares favorably with the increase of 400 per cent in borer population in 1926 when there was no control campaign. The census of the borer population, as determined by actual count during the past month in Michigan, Ohio, New York, and Pennsylvania, shows that there is now an average of 13 borers per 100 stalks in the campaign area despite a 95 per cent clean-up as compared with an average of 8 borers per 100 stalks last year. It should be remembered when doing this little problem in arithmetic that even though 95 of every 100 borers be destroyed, the remaining five will have, on an average, 150 mature descendants the next year. Furthermore weather conditions generally in early summer this year were unusually favorable to the survival and growth of the borers. Had there been no clean-up this spring, judging by the increase last year, there might now be found about 52 borers per 100 stalks instead of 13.

The Corn Belt farmer, looking at the figures which show the corn borer's increase reduced from 400 per cent to 50 per cent, may take considerable comfort in the prediction that, even should the borer spread throughout the Corn Belt, if all spring and fall clean-ups are as thorough as that of this spring, he can face the borer with less anxiety.

Ohio, the survey shows, has an average of 4 borers per 100 stalks this year as compared with 5 last year and 2 in 1925. The Michigan borer population per 100 stalks now averages 35 as compared with 11 last year and 2 in 1925. New York averages 11 borers per 100 stalks now as against 7 last year and 4 the year before. Pennsylvania has 18 borers per 100 stalks this year as compared with 7 last year and 3 in 1925. Indiana was not considered in figuring the census of borer population, since all townships in that State were found to have less than 1 per cent infestation.

Reports of scouts show that the borer has continued its spread southward and westward and even northward. So far this year, 410 townships have been added to the list of townships with extremely light infestation in Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, and Indiana. Of the 410, 228 are in Ohio, 67 in Indiana, 61 in Michigan, 53 in Pennsylvania, and 1 in New York. The new southern border of borer-infested territory is Pickaway County, Ohio. The western border, according to scout reports to date, is in Marshall and St. Joseph Counties, Ind. The northern border is now in Alpena County, Mich.

TIE A STRING AROUND YOUR FINGER!

ALL VOUCHERS

FOR EXTRA-LABOR FEE

IN SPRING CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

MUST BE SUBMITTED

BY SEPTEMBER 30.

"INSPECT YOUR CORNFIELDS CLOSELY FOR SIGNS OF THE BORER," - -

- - advises Dr. L. M. Peairs, entomologist of the West Virginia College of Agriculture. He is asking farmers in West Virginia to send specimens of any worms not identified to the experiment station at Morgantown, together with a report as to the number of worms noticed. The common stalk borer appeared earlier in the season and now is gone, so he is urging that any worms found boring in the stalks now be given special attention.

MICHIGAN BEGINS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM



A meeting of 40 regulatory officials and extension workers, 20 of whom were county agents, was held at Monroe, Mich., September 7, for the purpose of completing plans for undertaking the educational campaign recommended at the Toledo conference in July.

As a result of the Monroe meeting, a schedule of low-cutting demonstrations has been arranged in 26 counties in Michigan. Plowing contests and plowing demonstrations will be held this fall, the first one to be staged in Tuscola County on September 30. Farmers' tours to badly infested areas are now under way, and every agent is planning at least one tour for his county. A suggestion was made at the meeting that later on a strictly farmers' tour to heavily infested areas in Canada be conducted.

Other States are planning to get into line with demonstrations and contests. More than 200 low-cutting demonstrations have been scheduled in the five infested States. The United States Department of Agriculture has purchased 30 self-binders for use in this connection.

HOW FAR CAN A BORER MOTH FLY? *B*

Field experiments have shown that much of the spread of the corn borer is due to the flight of the moths. It has been determined by careful experiments that the moths can fly at least 20 miles in a single flight or in a series of flights. During windy periods the direction of flight is with the wind. Wind records taken by the Weather Bureau would indicate that this accounts for the spread in 1926 of many corn-borer moths from the intensely infested areas in the Province of Ontario, Canada, particularly from Essex and Kent Counties, to the United States side of Lake Erie.



